

Harpers Ferry

2017 Event Guide

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Basic Information

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (NHP) is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm. Free shuttle service takes visitors from the Visitor Center and parking lot at the park's entrance to the Lower Town. The park is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Park entrance fees are valid for three consecutive days beginning on the date of purchase. For complete information about fees, please see our Fees & Passes webpage at go.nps.gov/HFfees.

Hiking

With more than 20 miles of trails, hiking is a popular activity at Harpers Ferry NHP. Trails range from easy, riverside strolls to four-mile hikes across Civil War battlefields to eight-mile adventures up and down the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Our Hikes webpage (go.nps.gov/HFhikes) has detailed trail descriptions, including location, length and intensity, highlights, hiking time, and printable trail maps. Trail maps are also available at the Visitor Center or Information Center.

Junior Ranger Activity Book

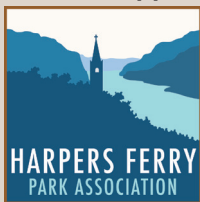
Packed with activities for young explorers! Earn up to three Junior Ranger badges! Buy the booklet at the Visitor Center or Park Bookshop for \$1.50 or download a free copy at go.nps.gov/HFjuniorranger.



Museums/Exhibits

The Lower Town area of the park has several museums and exhibits. Step back in time by exploring the period exhibits such as an 1850s Dry Goods Store or the Confectionery. Reflect on the history of John Brown and the Civil War by visiting the museums on those topics. Learn something new in the Industry Museum or the African American History exhibits. Pick up a park brochure for the full list.

How to Support Your Park



Did you know that national parks rely on their partners for everything from hand-outs like this one to funding for special events?

Since 1971, the Harpers Ferry Park Association (HFPA) has been a partner with Harpers Ferry NHP and has provided over \$2 million in funding to help enhance the visitor experience at Harpers Ferry.

Please consider becoming a member to help support your national park! Applications are available in the Park Bookshop or online at www.harpersferryhistory.org.

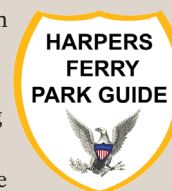
Connect with the Park

Harpers Ferry NHP welcomes visitors to share their park experiences via social media. Connect virtually with the park by following @HarpersFerryNPS on numerous social media platforms.



Harpers Ferry Park Guide Tours

Would you like to have your own private, guided tour? HFPA's certified park guides provide in-depth, 2-2.5 hour tours covering Harpers Ferry's history. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. To ensure a tour, please schedule your Harpers Ferry Park Guide as far in advance as possible. For pricing and more information visit www.harpersferryhistory.org or call 304.535.6881.



Summer Ranger Guided Programs

Check our website for the daily summer ranger program schedule.

Special Events and Programs

Harpers Ferry NHP will host numerous special events and programs in 2017, which are listed throughout this guide. A few of our featured events are:

A Day in the Park

April 22, 11 am - 4 pm | Lower Town, The Green
This event will occur on the NPS' Junior Ranger Day and will give kids of all ages the opportunity to have fun while learning how the NPS operates.

Naturalization Ceremony

July 11, 11 am | Lower Town
An NPS partnership event with the US Citizenship and Immigration Service, featuring guest speakers, music, and reception.

Thomas Jefferson on Educating the People

September 9, 1 pm & 3 pm | Lower Town
Bill Barker will portray our third president. Join us for an insightful dramatic presentation on the importance of citizenship.

150th Anniversary of Storer College



In 2017, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Storer College. Throughout the year the park will host special events and programs that tell the history of Storer College and recognize the legacy of the institution, which was the first school in West Virginia to welcome students of all backgrounds.

The map on the next page shows many of the locations of the 150th anniversary events. To learn more about Storer College's history and to check for additional information about the events, visit go.nps.gov/StorerCollege.

Education and the Struggle for Equality

February 5, 2 pm | Mather Training Center (Anthony Hall)

Kick-off for the Storer College Sesquicentennial year. Storer College presentation by Ranger Guinevere Roper with a reception following the program.

Lifting as We Climb

February 12, 2 pm |
Curtis Freewill Baptist Church

Ilene Evans, a storyteller, performer, and scholar, will present a 90-minute dramatic program of the life of Storer College graduate and Civil Rights pioneer, Coralie Franklin Cook.



Storer College: A Legacy of Light and Learning

February 19, 2 pm | Mather Training Center (Anthony Hall)

Join filmmaker Midge Flinn Yost for a discussion and showing of this very special film.

Soul Food Tasting Program

February 26, 3 pm | Charles Town, Saint Philip's Episcopal Church

Savor a variety of delightful dishes at the annual Black History Soul Food Tasting program. Sponsored by the Jefferson County branch of the NAACP, this year's program highlights the Storer College Sesquicentennial commemoration.

Missionaries and Money: How Free Baptist Women Influenced Storer College

March 18, 2 pm |
Mather Training Center (Anthony Hall)

Discover the history of the women who worked tirelessly to raise money for Storer College's buildings' fund and of those who were the missionary teachers from the 1870s to the 1910s.



Music is the Voice of the Soul

March 31, 7:30 pm | Curtis Freewill Baptist Church

Legendary pianist Bertha Hope will present a concert in tribute to Women's History Month and the Storer College Sesquicentennial.

Preservation, Education, and Promulgation

April 1, 10:30 am | Mather Training Center (Anthony Hall)

In 1987, Congress passed legislation recognizing "jazz as a rare and valuable national treasure." Join us as jazz saxophonist Howard Burns and legendary pianist Bertha Hope discuss this unique American art form.

They Made a Difference

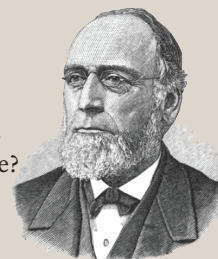
April 17-21, 2 pm | Lower Town, John Brown Museum, Allies for Freedom Room

Join a park ranger for special National Park Week programs which will connect Harpers Ferry's civil rights stories to other national park sites.

The Search for Alexander Morrell

May 7, 2 pm | Curtis Freewill Baptist Church

Is Reverend Alexander Morrell buried in Harpers Ferry, where he dedicated his life to Storer College? Find out about the search for the good reverend's final resting place.



From Shackles to Scholars: Discovering New Life Through Education

May 22-29 | Lower Town

A student art exhibition for the Storer College sesquicentennial.

A Landscape Through Time: The Historical Development of Camp Hill

May 27, 1-3 pm | Lower Town, Information Center

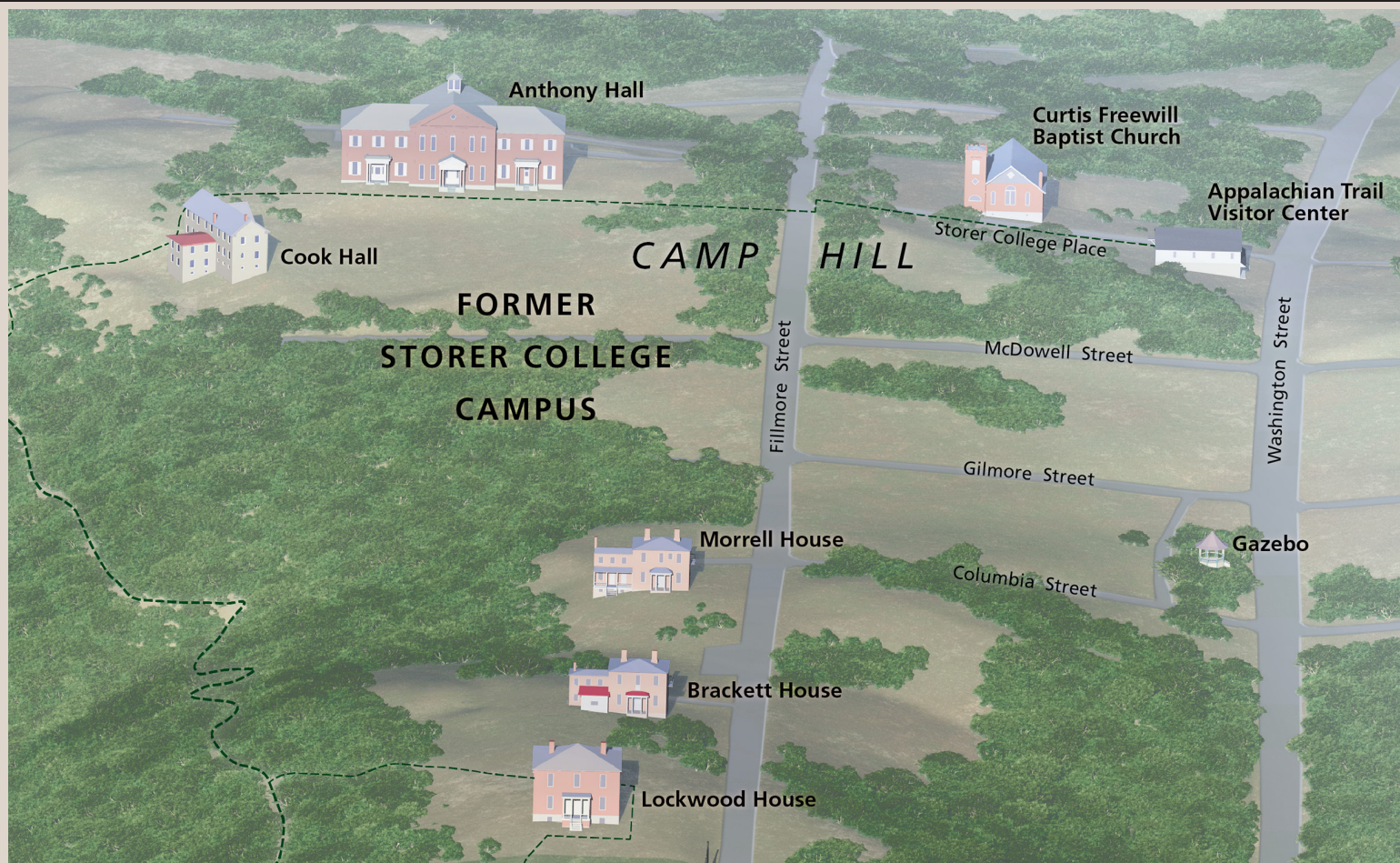
Opening reception. This exhibit will explore the historical development of Camp Hill, featuring its early use by the US Armory, during the conflict of the Civil War, then as the campus for Storer College, and, finally, as part of the National Park System today.

A History of "Anniversary Day" at Storer College

May 28, 2 pm | Camp Hill

Walk the grounds of Storer College with a park ranger to trace the steps of the students, teachers, and trustees of the school and learn how they celebrated graduation.





16th Annual Don Redman Jazz Heritage Awards and Concert

June 24, 6 pm | Camp Hill, Mather Training Center Lawn

The concert commemorates Don Redman, the internationally acclaimed and influential 1920 graduate of Storer College, and honors living legends of jazz. The concert features the 2017 Honorees, Barry Harris and Rufus Reid, along with the Howard Burns Quartet. The program will also feature music by the 2017 Don Redman Next Generation Jazz Scholars.



For Freedom and Dignity: Voices from Storer College

July 22, 7 pm | Meet in front of Mather Training Center

Join park rangers and explore the rich history of Storer College. Proper footwear encouraged. Approximately 1/2 mile of walking involved during this 1.5 hour program.

Niagara Movement Pilgrimage to John Brown's Fort

August 20, 8 am | Murphy-Chambers Farm and Curtis Freewill Baptist Church

Retrace the footsteps of the men and women of Niagara during this commemorative walk to the site of John Brown's Fort in 1906. A 10am memorial service will follow at the Curtis Freewill Baptist Church.



Revelations in Research, Storer College Edition

September 16, 2 pm | Lower Town, John Brown Museum, Allies for Freedom Room

How do park rangers know the history of Storer College? Join rangers for a presentation about how they conduct research and what they have found concerning Storer College.

150th Anniversary Storer College Commemoration

October 6-8 | Camp Hill

A weekend of special tours, programs, drama, and music will highlight the sesquicentennial of the founding of Storer College. Speakers include Dr. David Levering Lewis and Dr. Edna Greene Medford. Further details to be announced.



Featured Programs

Living History Weekends

Unless noted, all Living History events are from 11 am to 4 pm in the Lower Town.

President Washington's Birthday: Of the American System of Manufacturing | February 18

Join living history park rangers and volunteers to recognize the father of our country, President George Washington's, birthday.

Necessity: The Mother of Invention | Mar. 25-26
A Women's History Month event featuring stories of the town's industrial history.

"Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread" | April 8, August 26-27, 1-5 pm
Bread, called the "staff of life," was made locally by bakers and confectioners. Visitors are welcome to learn about this trade and purchase fresh baked goods.

The Enemy Among Us: Defending Harpers Ferry During the War of 1812 | April 22-23, August 12-13, September 30 - October 1
Visit a living history 1812 military recruitment station at the town's oldest structure.

City Farming: Food in the Backyard | May 20-21
Purchase heirloom vegetables and seeds from the Bookshop to start your own kitchen garden.

Defend and Protect: Arming America's Soldiers May 27-28
Special exhibits and programs will highlight the technology and invention of the Harpers Ferry Armory.

Guard House, 1864 | June 17-18
Learn how civilians and Civil War soldiers found themselves on the wrong side of martial law in 1864.



Under Fire: Hold the High Ground, 1862 | June 24-25, July 29-30, August 5-6, October 28-29
Artillery crew demonstrates the might and intimidation of field artillery during the US surrender to Confederate General "Stonewall" Jackson. (Bolivar Heights Battlefield)

Medical Weekend: Giving Aid and Comfort
July 15-16

Living history staff and volunteers portray the medical and relief efforts provided to soldiers during the Civil War.

"I Will Follow Them to the Death": Sheridan's Soldiers, 1864 | July 22-23

See Harpers Ferry as the staging ground for Union General Philip Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign during the summer of 1864.

Lives in Limbo: Contraband Camp in the Shadow of John Brown's Fort | September 23-24

Runaway slaves who came into Union lines were called contraband, or enemy property confiscated by the Union Army. Step back to the tense times when the lives of these freedom seekers were in limbo.

Reacting to the Raid: Local Militia and the US Marines | October 14-15

John Brown attacked Harpers Ferry on October 16, 1859, and was captured two days later by the US Marines. Volunteers of the USMC Historical Company relive the scene and the all-important reactions to the raid.

Drink Your Apples: Roeder's Tavern Cider Making, 1860 | October 21-22

Join living history staff and volunteers to make cider at White Hall Tavern on Potomac Street.

Captain Flagg's US Quartermaster City, 1864: Prospects of Peace | December 2-3

Experience this yuletide event from the war that determined the union of the states and the eventual freedom of four million enslaved people.

Cultural Resources Presentations

Murphy-Chambers Farm Hike

April 24, 11 am | Murphy-Chambers Farm lot
A brief history and tour of this gorgeous landscape through the eyes of an archeologist.

Loudoun Heights Hike

May 8, 9:30 am | Lower Town, The Green
Join park rangers for a 6-mile round trip, 5-hour, hike to Split Rock, learning about the history of the mountain along the way. This is a strenuous hike and proper footwear is required. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. Limited to 20 participants. Pre-registration required by calling 304-535-6038.

Archeology and the US Armory Grounds

May 15, August 7, 2 pm | Lower Town, Train Station
See how excavations of the US Armory revealed a huge slice of the hidden history of Harpers Ferry.

Meet Your Park Archeologist

May 22, July 24, September 11, October 23, 2 pm | Lower Town, John Brown Museum, Allies for Freedom Room

Learn about archeology at Harpers Ferry and a day in the life of an NPS archeologist.

Not Just a Pile of Rocks: The Preservation of Archeological Resources on Loudoun Heights

June 5, September 18, 2 pm | Lower Town, John Brown Museum, Allies for Freedom Room

Learn about the history and preservation of cultural resources on one of our Blue Ridge mountaintops.

Caring for Museum Collections

June 12, August 21, 2 pm | Lower Town, Dry Goods Store Exhibit

Meet the park museum curator for a presentation/demonstration of preventative conservation.

The "New" Harpers Ferry Station: Improvements on the B&O Railroad, 1892-1894

June 19, September 25, 2 pm | Lower Town, Train Station

See the restored train station and learn about the railroad's significant changes at the end of the 19th century.

Artifact Sneak Peek

July 17, August 28, October 2, 2 pm | Lower Town, John Brown Museum, Allies for Freedom Room

A behind the scenes tour of objects in our archeology collection that rarely see the light of day.

Natural Resources Presentations

Return of the Peregrine Falcon

March 20, July 10, 2 pm | Lower Town, John Brown Museum, Allies for Freedom Room

Join our Resource Management professionals for the story of peregrine falcons and their triumphant return to the skies of Harpers Ferry.

Botanical Invasion

April 17, June 26, 10 am | Lower Town, The Green
Take a walk on Virginius Island and learn how to identify and record invasive plant species with your smartphone.

Fall Foliage Walk

Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 2 pm | Lower Town, The Green
Join our Natural Resources Specialist for a walk to view the fall colors and identify the trees beneath the leaves.

